

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES NOVEMBER 2001



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unemployment Rates Up In October

During October, unemployment rates in sixty-four of the state's seventy-two counties increased from the previous month as well as over the year. Six counties had lower rates than in September. Forty-six of the state's counties had estimated unemployment rates of 4.0 percent or lower in the month of October. The state's seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment rose to 4.5 percent. Menominee County continued to have the highest rate of unemployment of all the state's counties (9.9 percent), while Dane County, at 1.8 percent, had the lowest rate in the state during October. In general, counties with large manufacturing workforces experienced the largest increases in the level of unemployment over the past month.

The nation's unemployment rate during this period rose to 5.0 percent, up from 4.7 percent September. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the nation's rate rose to 5.4 percent, up from 4.9 percent a month ago.

Unemployment rates increased over the month in all seven counties of our Workforce Development Area (WDA). The highest rate, 4.3 percent was in Waushara County, and that was up from 2.9 percent in September. Our lowest rate was in Outagamie County, 3.3 percent, up from 2.8 percent the previous month. Even though the rates of unemployment increased in all seven of our counties over the month, total employment numbers also increased. In October, there were 287,307 people working in our labor market. That was an increase of 1,700 from the previous month, and 9,300 from October of 2000. Nonfarm wage and salary employment was up more than 450 over the month but down slightly over the year. Over the month we lost more than 1,400 jobs in manufacturing in the region, and over the year we were down over 2,000 jobs in that sector. Statewide, over the month, manufacturing declined by 5,260 jobs. Over the year, Wisconsin lost more than 29,800 jobs from the manufacturing sector of the state's labor market. In the MSA por-

tion of our area, nondurable goods manufacturing (paper, printing, and food products industries) were down by over 300 jobs in October. Over the year, printing and publishing industries lost 300 jobs, while the paper industry was down by 200.

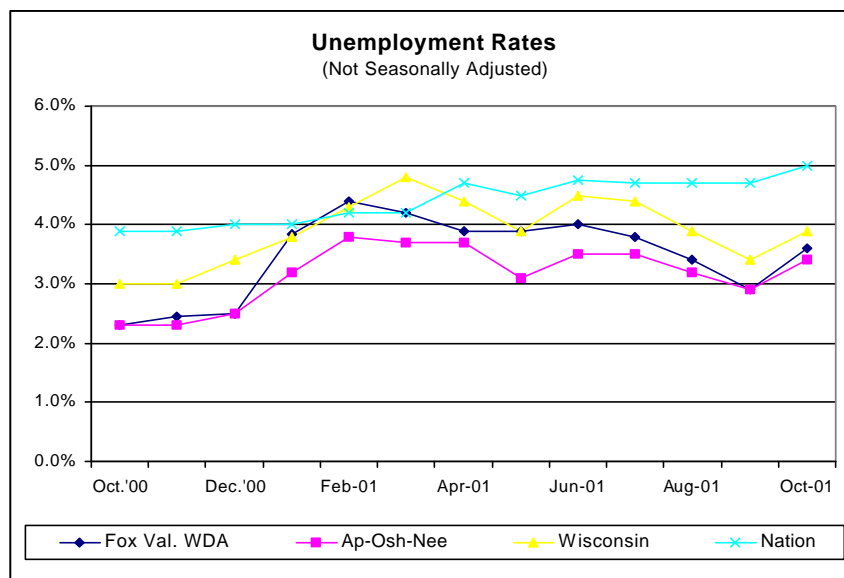
The construction industry has been very busy in the MSA. During October there were more than 14,000 workers employed in construction jobs. That was 200 more than during the previous month and 200 more than during October of 2000.

Retail trade, one of our ever growing industries, employed 35,700 workers in October. That was 400 more than in September and 100 more than one year ago. It appears that consumer confidence is still high in the Fox Valley area, and that is a major factor that will influence an economic recovery. Nationally, consumer spending increased 2.9 percent in October, which was a record, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Automobile sales were very strong during the month, thanks to the zero percent interest terms from some of the manufacturers. However, even while consumer

spending was at a record level, there was a downside for many workers who were laid off. For example, the portion of home owners falling into foreclosure reached its highest recorded level in the third quarter of this year, and the percentage falling behind in their mortgage payments was the highest in ten years.

U.I. Claims:

As layoffs continued, there was a rise in the number of claims filed for unemployment benefits. Of the 12,100 people listed as unemployed in the WDA, 9,492 (78.5 percent) received checks for unemployment benefits. The total amount paid in U.I. Benefits during October for our seven county area was \$4,464,981. One year ago the payments for October amounted to \$3,357,617. This year there were more higher paid manufacturing workers laid off, and that certainly influenced the size of benefit payments as well as the total



Number of dollars paid in benefits during the month.

Even though unemployment is on the rise, all counties in the Fox Valley area have experienced increases in the size of the labor force as well as total job growth over the year. Yes, manufacturing is in a slowdown, however, the need for services, both private and public, as well as consumer needs obtained in the retail sector, have led to net positive job growth in our area.

There are still labor shortages, even though we are in a period of

economic slowdown. There are shortages of workers in skilled trades, engineering of all types, the health care industry, and technical and professional workers in most of the service sector. The occupations with the greatest shortages also require the most preparation by training or education. These shortages will be with us for years to come, and the short will become much more serious as the baby boomers start to leave the labor market over the next ten years.

Our web site is: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Oct-01	App/Osh/Neenah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	231,100	56,200	10,800	27,600	12,400	338,100	3,050,800
Employed	223,300	54,200	10,400	26,400	11,800	326,100	2,932,500
Unemployed	7,900	2,100	400	1,200	500	12,100	118,300
Unemployment rate(%)	3.4%	3.7%	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	3.6%	3.9%
Total, all industries**	208,680	48,784	7,794	22,049	6,384	287,307	2,862,882
Construction & Mining	14,598	3,254	628	1,194	429	19,674	136,465
Manufacturing	58,017	12,578	1,661	6,562	790	78,818	585,836
Transportation & Public Utilities	10,344	1,905	328	620	310	13,197	137,166
Wholesale Trade	9,222	1,878	175	825	405	12,100	137,316
Retail Trade	35,749	9,123	1,530	4,282	1,450	50,684	504,351
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	8,962	1,629	232	664	222	11,487	152,798
Services	47,166	12,488	2,108	4,036	1,397	65,798	788,527
Government	24,622	5,929	1,132	3,866	1,381	35,549	420,423
Change from previous month							
Civilian Labor Force*	1,800	-200	0	-100	100	1,700	12,500
Employed	700	-500	-100	-400	-200	-500	-2,500
Unemployed	1,300	400	100	300	100	2,300	15,100
Unemployment rate(%)	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%
Total, all industries**	1,021	-250	-116	-202	-51	453	7,612
Construction & Mining	218	-76	-19	-2	-4	121	-1,235
Manufacturing	-1,236	-271	-9	30	-14	-1,486	-5,260
Transportation & Public Utilities	116	27	18	5	-3	166	466
Wholesale Trade	47	-16	-1	8	36	38	-205
Retail Trade	410	-10	-49	-128	-24	223	2,194
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	-51	-25	2	0	-2	-74	337
Services	-228	21	-86	-124	-50	-417	-2,800
Government	1,745	100	28	9	10	1,882	14,115
Change from year ago							
Civilian Labor Force*	4,200	2,100	500	1,100	1,400	9,300	79,000
Employed	1,400	1,500	300	600	1,100	5,000	42,400
Unemployed	2,900	700	200	500	200	4,600	36,600
Unemployment rate(%)	1.2%	1.2%	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%
Total, all industries**	-1,175	937	-92	260	559	-69	-3,685
Construction & Mining	200	243	15	132	59	589	-2,042
Manufacturing	-2,073	93	-124	92	-2	-2,013	-29,823
Transportation & Public Utilities	490	-1	-3	-9	29	477	-53
Wholesale Trade	-111	31	-6	-27	79	-112	-2,846
Retail Trade	138	-107	16	20	58	67	1,690
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	87	-9	16	13	9	107	3,449
Services	-828	546	7	-79	76	-353	13,694
Government	922	141	-13	118	251	1,169	12,246

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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